
Your December accreditation news update

From Melissa Kalvestrand - Land Trust Alliance <mkalvestrand@email.lta.org>

Date Thu 12/18/2025 1:00 PM

To Jennifer Brady-Connor <jbconnor@landtrustaccreditation.org>



Your news update December 2025

Accreditation decisions

Join us in celebrating the 33 land trusts who achieved renewal of accreditation this winter. Accredited land trusts have helped strengthen the entire land trust community. This trusted network of land trusts demonstrated fiscal accountability, strong organizational leadership, sound transactions and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve. Land trusts who invest time and resources in the renewal process are telling their communities that they understand the responsibility of the promise of perpetuity.



[See the list](#)

Join our team: Communications specialist



The Commission board and staff members.

Meaningful work with a national impact. That's what it means to work for the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Consider joining our tight-knit team of dedicated conservationists as a communications specialist. At the Commission, you'll have a chance to connect with land trusts around the country and help promote the accreditation program. Sound like something you want to be a part of?

[Learn more](#)

Bird conservation for land trusts

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative has announced its upcoming 2026 Small Grant program. The application opens in January with proposals due by March 1. Learn more about the [Request for Proposals](#) and [past grant awardees](#).

- There are eight grants of \$25,000 each for Management and Restoration Projects. Projects should actively manage, restore, and/or steward land in a way that enhances habitat and promotes bird conservation, with special emphasis on priority species or those identified in State Wildlife

Action Plans. Applicant organization should either be an accredited land trust or partner with an accredited land trust.

- There are six grants of \$10,000 each for Capacity and Partnership Grants. Projects should build land trust capacity by teaching or demonstrating how birds can enhance strategic planning and mission fulfillment of land trusts and/or facilitate mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships with the bird conservation community. Any land trust or conservation organization partnering with a land trust may apply.

We need to hear from you if you...

- | | |
|---|--|
| » Have a new executive director. | » Changed geographical area. |
| » Have a new contact for accreditation. | » Changed corporate structure. |
| » Changed names. | » Changed programming, such as accepting easements when previously only accepting fee lands. |
| » Decided to merge with another organization. | |

[Update your information now](#)

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The mission of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission is to inspire excellence, promote public trust and ensure permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing land trust organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and that strive for continuous improvement.
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